

G R A N T



A B I G A I L

OF WRITING AND PLACES IN BETWEEN

This Fall

by Abi

Summer went by all too fast for us, and it is fall time and holiday season again. Grant and I don't mind too much though; fall is our favorite season, and we make some sort of warm drink (tea, coffee, or hot cocoa) every day to celebrate.

But this summer was productive for us. Grant spent his time writing a 90,000 word novel, *The Queen of Hoarfrost*, editing it, and then sending it out to agents. He has yet to hear back from some of them, but overall this was a great accomplishment.

Abi spent the summer writing and self-publishing poetry, writing a novel for Camp Nanowrimo, as well as editing several full length novels for her Patchwork Press internship. She's excited to have worked for this publishing collective for a year now. She almost has enough experience under her belt to start freelancing!

Prose Selection

by Grant

An excerpt from *The Queen of Hoarfrost*

The sisters kept riding in the quiet until the sun went down and painted the world in vivid pinks and purples and dark shadows stretched out across the snow like the night was digging its talons into the land. The trees cast their dark glow across the snow, and the whole valley looked like it was on fire with some strange magic for the few moments of dusk.

"Do you want to be married?" Madeline asked as they started their return home.

Serena, older by two years and the heir to the kingdom, shrugged. "Why not?" she replied, surprised at the question. She had never considered it as optional. It was

As summer ends and the leaves turn beautiful colors, Grant and I are reflecting on the year and all that we did. There is so much we have to be thankful for, and so much we still wish we could have accomplished. But now is the time for making new goals and moving forward.

November was National Novel Writing Month, a month in which people all over the world spend their time writing a 50,000 word novel. Grant and I have participated in this every year for the past seven years (Abi's eighth), and are very excited to do it again!

Abi wrote about space vikings and Grant wrote a sequel to his fantasy novel from the summer. Until our next newsletter, we wish you all happy holidays and welcome you to keep up to date on our happenings online at: musesmadwardrobe.weebly.com

something that would happen whether she cared for it or not.

"I was just curious if you dreamed or fantasized about it," said Madeline, looking off into the horizon. "I imagine having children, playing dolls with them, and dressing them up for court so all the visiting dignitaries will be so impressed and compliment me on how well adjusted my girls and boys are."

"How many are you planning on having?" Serena asked, wondering if Madeline realized there was more to raising children than playing with them and dressing them.

"Oh, I don't know. It doesn't really matter right now, does it? But I imagine two of each, one boy and girl on each side of my throne like ring bearers or something. They'd be so cute."

"And when they grow up and you have to marry them off? And they move away to some faraway place where you never see them anymore?"

Madeline frowned. "Don't be so depressing. That's not how it works. I just have to send them a messenger, and they'll come visit, obviously. And they'll bring my grandchildren with them."

Serena shook her head. She was fairly confident growing up was a lot more complicated than that.

Writing Tips: Make Goals

by Grant

There is this saying I keep hearing that goes like this: “Everybody wants to be a writer.” My first reaction to this is to say: Then why aren’t you? The answer: Because it’s actually a lot harder than people give it credit for. It’s true, anyone can slap five hundred words onto a page and call it writing, but not just anyone can do it every day and turn it into a living. That said, I’m here to share with you some of the tips and habits Abi and I have developed to become better writers.

We Read: Abi read 270 books this year. These include everything from historical and nonfiction to Young Adult and fantasy books. They also include books on how to improve our writing, our favorites being: “Steal Like an Artist” by Austin Kleon which is about the correct way to learn from master artists; “Steering the Craft” by Ursula Le Guin which is about practicing writing and has a lot of helpful exercises even for experienced writers; and our grammar Nazi handbook, Strunk & White’s “The Elements of Style.”

We Write: Collectively, Abi and I wrote over 50 short stories this year and multiple novels. By myself I wrote at least a quarter of a million words in various fiction projects, and the underlying theme for it all is: write every day even if it’s only for 15 minutes. We made monthly writing goals for ourselves, such as “write a short story (1-5,000 words) every week” or “write a novel (50,000+ words) this month.” It’s wonderful having each other to keep us accountable as well as a calendar on the wall with days we check mark when we meet the goals.

We Edit: Abi founded her own online magazine this year for which I edit various posts and submissions. Abi also works for an online independent publishing company, which helps unpublished writers get a book under their belt. She helps writers to edit their manuscripts, working on a new one almost every month. And then we have each other’s work that we’re always swapping and discussing in our own little writer workshop at home.

In the end, writing is no different from learning any other skill or occupation. It takes hours of practice and support from its community. Thank you all once again for your constant encouragement and for making this possible for us.

Review: The Cannery

by Abigail

Continuing in our adventures of getting out and about Eugene, Grant and I recently went to a restaurant/pub called The Cannery. I found it earlier this year because it's on 11th Avenue and thus on my almost daily walk to the Eugene Public Library. I always see the menu outside on a small chalkboard on the sidewalk. The advertisements for reuben sandwiches and beer cheese soup were too much of a temptation to resist.

For our first attempt, we took my sister and her husband out for a little sibling time, and we had a blast. Between the four of us, we had a roast beef sandwich, a reuben sandwich, a burger, and fish tacos, all of which were excellent.

The Cannery's food is natural and organic. They gave us pickled broccoli as one of the sides for our sandwiches, which I found strange at first but not disgusting. We also enjoyed their mixed drinks. Grant got their "Meringue O' Dang," a sweet vodka brew with pear and vanilla. We will definitely have this one again.

Since then, we've gone a few more times, each time without regret. As I'm writing this it's Grant and I's monthiversary (the 20th of every month), and once again we'll be off to try their various sandwiches, soups, and fries. We both hope some of you decide to check this place out.

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